

Planner 's Report

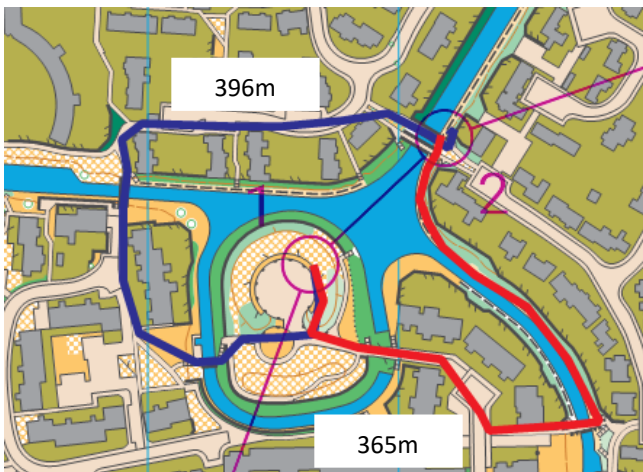
Dear Thamesmead participants,

I hope everyone who took part yesterday had a good time and enjoyed the courses. After planning this event for just over a year now, it was extremely rewarding to hear all of the positive feedback yesterday! Thamesmead is the perfect location for an urban event, with its intricate alleyways and rivers creating infinite route choice. I have spent hours on Purple Pen making, slightly adjusting courses to maximise the intricacy of the courses and create tricky route choices. Below, I have analysed some of these legs. How do they compare to the way you went?

As always, planning an event is extremely challenging and there are multiple steps of the process that often get forgotten when you are just competing in the event and planning this event has opened my eyes to all of the fine details that go into the organisation of an event. I would like to thank Andrew Evans especially for his work with me over the last few months, giving advice on how to plan the event so that it goes as seamlessly as possible. I would also like to thank the work of everyone in DFOK who gave up there time yesterday (Some from 7am-4pm) to make the event possible! Finally, I would like everyone for coming, making it one of our biggest events this year and raising £325 which will go towards the development of our junior squad!

Many thanks and hope to see you back at some DFOK events soon!

Luke Bennett (Planner)

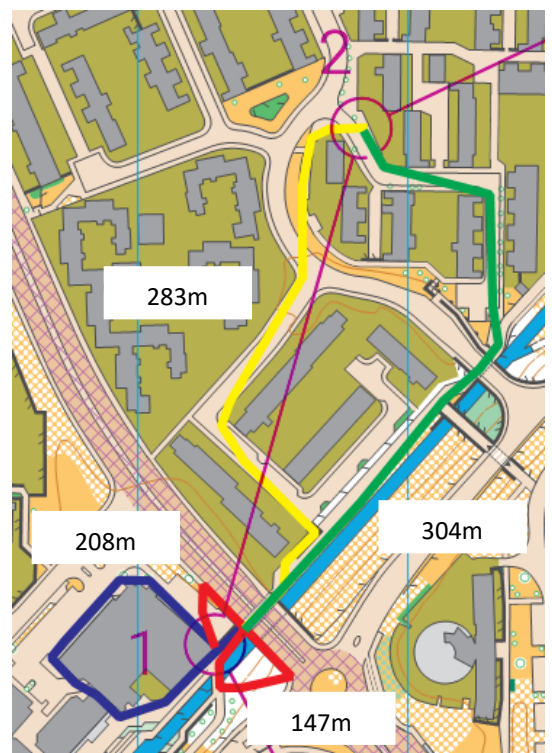


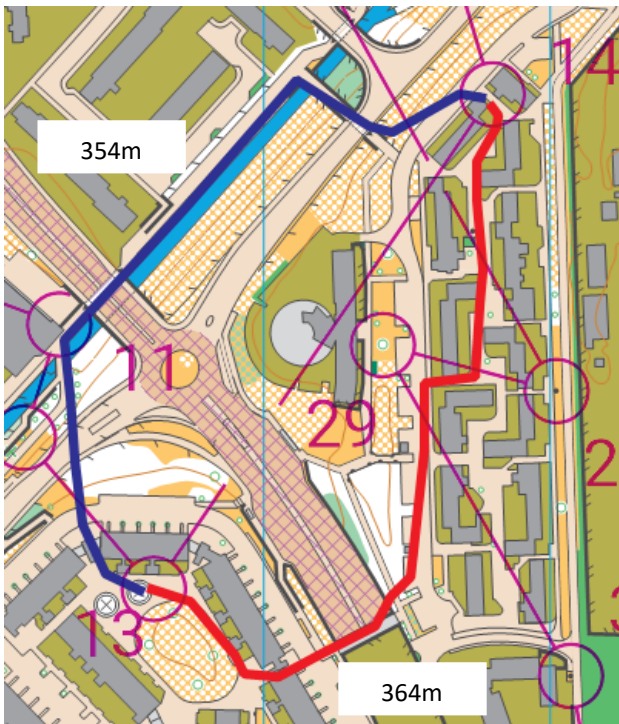
I had made many drafts for the courses at Thamesmead, however, this leg was identified in the first one and survived many edits to the courses. Seemingly such a short leg, the optimum distance has a big diversion to the red line. With many turns and direction changes, it is hard to tell which route is best when glancing during a race.

On this occasion, it was the red route which was 31m shorter than the blue route.

This leg was used for courses 1,2,4 and 6.

This leg was used for courses; 2,5 and 6 although course 1 had a slight variation of this leg, where the red/blue route choice is still decisive. The comments from Andrew, who was observing from the other side of the road was that most people were taking the blue route, which is the most obvious one with a quick check of the map. However, taking the red route would have been a whopping 61m shorter! There was 21m between the green and yellow route, with yellow being the optimum route, making Red+ Yellow the best way to compete this leg, with a total distance of 430m compared to 512m on the Blue + Green route.



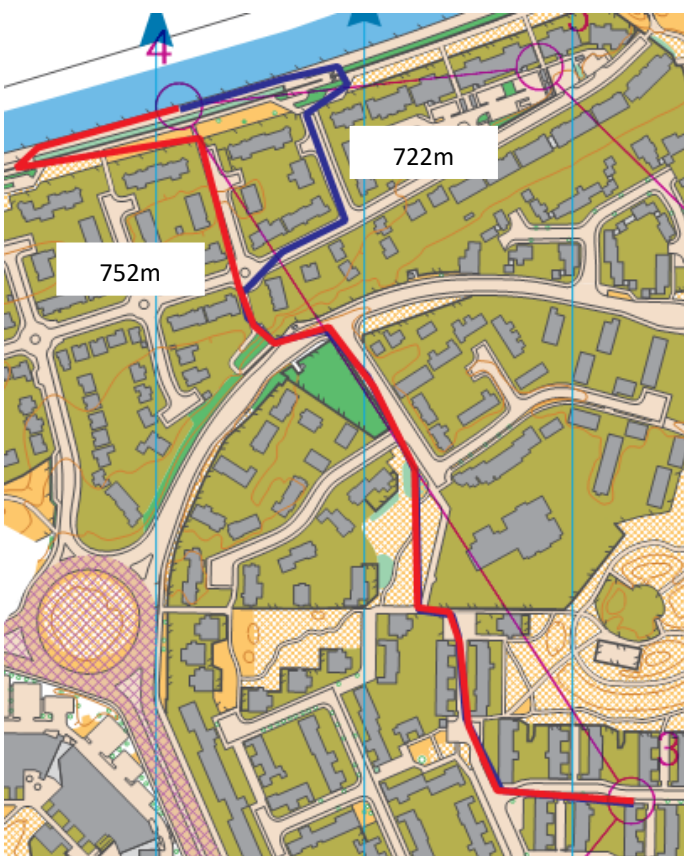
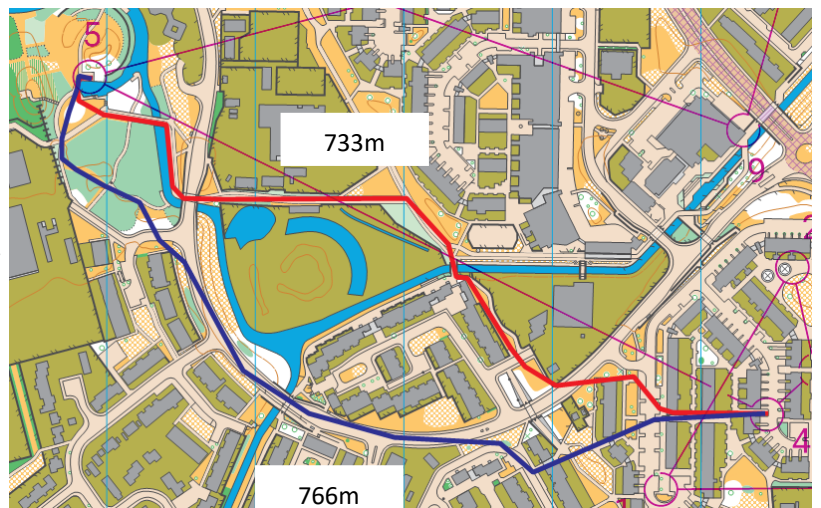


This leg was only used on course 3, however, based on the routes uploaded to Routegadget so far, there was a large majority of runners picking the red route, which was interesting as it was in fact 10m longer!

Whilst there wasn't at much at stake on this leg, and perhaps going 10m further wasn't too costly, it is an example of a leg where you should just 'pick a leg and go,' rather than spend time analysing different routes.

Throughout the race I included legs where there were big differences in distance depending on the route that was taken, whereas others had little to no difference. The challenge was identifying which legs have a large difference and which ones do not matter which way you go.

This leg was only used on course 2, however there were some shorter variations of this leg on courses 1,3 and 5. As most people went, the red choice was significantly shorter with a distance of 733m compared to 766m on the blue route. On courses 1 and 3, it was quicker to take the red option for the shorter variations, but for course 5, the blue route would have been better.



This leg was on course 1, however there was a shorter variation on course 3, starting from the park to the north of control 3 on this extract.

Holding an event in Thamesmead, it was inevitable that there would be a control on the River Thames, however I did not want it to be a leg with no challenge or just 'dead running' down the side of the river.

The main decision point on this leg was at the small roundabout where the two routes split. The majority of people took the blue route, which was 722m compared to 752m on the red route.

If there are any more legs on your course that you are interested in, or you would like to give feedback on the event/ courses in general, please feel free to get in contact with me at lukebennett2008@hotmail.com